

Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for reducing cracking at the body-shank junctions of a hardened die block, said apparatus including, in combination

an electric heat source in close proximity to the body-shank junction portion of the die block,

said electric heat source being positioned arranged to apply direct heat directly to the body-shank junction portion of the die block, and in an amount such that the body-shank portion, only, of the die block is softened to a level at which subsequent cracking at a shank-body junction of the die block is substantially eliminated, and

means for confining the heat from the electric heat source to the body-shank junction portion of the die block.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3 further characterized in that
the means for confining the induction heating currents are substances selected from the group comprising stainless steel, granite consisting essentially of non-magnetic rock, rock type and ceramic materials which are capable of withstanding, without substantial distortion, the temperatures generated during treatment by the induction heating coil means.

5. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 4 further characterized in that
the electric heat source is an induction heating coil means.

the induction heating coil means being are in abutting contact with the shank-body junction surface of a die block.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further characterized in that
the electric current heat source consists of the infrared heating means comprised of
are tungsten halogen lamps.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7 further characterized in that
the tungsten halogen lamps are spaced from closely to the body-shank junction portion
of the die block.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7 further characterized in that
the infrared heating means are short wave tungsten halogen lamps, are arranged to
operate in the short wave division of the electromagnetic spectrum.